



Focus on Small Spill Cleanup Guide

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

Petroleum Spills

- Fire and police departments should address the imminent safety hazards as necessary.
- Defensive efforts (i.e., contain the spill on the pavement or utilize a soil berm. Stop the source) should be made to keep the fuel from entering sanitary and/or storm drains.
- The responsibility for timely cleanup and disposal lies with the spiller.
- Make local notifications as appropriate (i.e., public works, storm/sewer utility). Ecology must be notified if the spill reaches ground water, storm or sanitary sewers, or surface water (see 24-hour notification contacts). The law requires notification by the spiller. However, in many cases, Ecology receives its notification from fire departments, law enforcement, etc. Ecology appreciates these calls and it's good to double-check and verify that Ecology has been notified. Ecology will provide additional response guidance and will contact the spiller to review the cleanup, direct the cleanup, and/or direct the disposal of the contaminated soil.
- Capture any free product as useable product, not as a waste. Use any clean container(s) available: buckets, kiddie swimming pools (inflatable type can be easily stored), plastic sheeting. Remove product with hand pumps (for smaller releases), or UL-rated vacuum truck or drum vacuum pump (for larger releases).
- Attempt to soak up product with sawdust, peat moss, fiber products, polypropylene pads, jells, rice hulls, or similar products. Note: Some products such as floor sweep are futile to use if it is raining. Use oleophilic products, i.e., pads, if product/water run-off mixture. This would also likely be considered a useable hog fuel, not a waste. Drum up the petroleum soaked sawdust, etc. Keep waste streams separated from pure product. Local permitted hog fuel burners and garbage incinerators may handle these wastes, limited quantities may be handled by your local landfill, otherwise use the contractor's assistance list for both cleanup and disposal assistance. Contact the local health and air authorities for guidance.
- If floor sweep, vermiculite, encapsulate, or other non-combustible sorbent is used, disposal (not acceptable for hog fuel burners) is still the responsibility of the spiller. Again, see the contractor's assistance list for both cleanup and disposal assistance. Small quantities (a few bags) can be triple bagged and sent to the landfill with approval from the local health department and possible the landfill as well. Clay, topsoil, and dirt absorb liquid better than sand. However, sand gives traction on streets and highways preventing a skid/slide hazard.
- Any contaminated soil may also need to be cleaned up by the responsible party. Again, triple bag (if using bags less than 6 mils thick) using clear bags (if available). Filled bags should not exceed 15 pounds. Flag and Tag: Tag each bag with the generator's name as well as the contents/material. This can be left on-site for the spiller to dispose of.
- Absorbent pads, booms, sweeps, and pillows can be drained/squeezed to remove product for recycling if they are super-saturated. These can also be triple bagged or diapered in visqueen. These too can be left on-site for the spiller to dispose of. Remember to Flag and Tag (see item above).
- When a container is "empty". Ecology recognizes that it is difficult to remove all contents of a container. The term "empty" applies whenever all contents of a container have been removed by



normal practical means, such as inverting and draining, shaking, scraping, or scooping. But after all common methods are used, the container will be considered empty when the following applicable conditions are met: 1) Small containers (less than 110 gallons), are empty when no more than one inch or 3% of container volume remains. 2) Large containers (greater than 110 gallons), are empty when no more than 0.3% of container volume remains. 3) Containers holding compressed gasses are empty when the pressure inside of the container is equal – or nearly equal – to atmospheric pressure. However, the definition of “empty” for chemical containers is different.

- If a temporary patch/plug has been used to stop the release from a vehicle tank or line, check that the vehicle is “road worthy” (i.e., the patch/plug should be secure enough not to be jarred loose on the road while traveling). Instruct the vehicle operator to permanently repair the damage. (Note: this damaged vehicle should not be traveling long distances with a temporary patch!).
- If a spill occurs at a residence, the waste/product can be taken to household hazardous waste facilities. Contact your local health department.

It is illegal to use dispersants (i.e., Joy soap or Simple Green) and “flush” a release.

Free Product

Most free product can be recycled if: 1) it is not contaminated, 2) it is collected soon after the spill (thus preventing post-spill contamination), 3) it is not a designated dangerous waste. Contact **Ecology’s Recycle Hotline at 1-800-RECYCLE** or see the contractor’s assistance list. However, if the free product is a dangerous (chemical) waste, it must be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. If you have questions about waste designation, call Ecology.

Decon Wash Water

If there has been no major contamination of personnel, then “dry decon” and bag personal protective equipment (PPE). **Minimize water!** If you use water and detergent, generally you can dispose of it in a sanitary sewer. Call your local sewer utility for permission prior to disposal. Highly contaminated decon water may need to be drummed. Decon water is not normally considered highly contaminated. However, depending on the spilled material (e.g., solvents, pesticides, transformer oil containing PCBs, etc.), this water may need to be classified and disposed of according to local, state, or federal regulations. Again, call Ecology if you have any questions.

Solid Waste

- Debris (i.e., glassware, baggies, brush)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Small Quantities of lightly-oiled absorbent pads, pillows, floor sweep

Depending on the identification and the parts per million (ppm) concentrations of the waste, the local landfill (only those permitted and meeting current standards) should be able to take most of the solid waste generated from a small or minor spill incident. Contact the local landfill and county health department prior to disposing of the waste.

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact the Spills Program at (360) 407-7455 (Voice) or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.

Soil

To clean up petroleum-contaminated soil you can either dispose of it at a permitted soil treatment facility or use approved bioremediation methods. For bioremediation, refer to Ecology's April 1994 publication, Guidance for Remediation of Petroleum-Contaminated Soils. Bioremediation also requires permission from your local health department.

OTHER: Very Large Oil Spills

Call Ecology! Ecology's Spill Response Manual outlines procedures for disposal of oil spill materials (see Appendix D, Oily Waste Disposal guidelines, July 1991). A large spill cleanup will require an Ecology and local government approved written plan, which will address disposal and interim storage.

CHEMICAL SPILLS

Chemical spill containment and collection methods are similar to oil spill response, but product information, chemical incompatibility, appropriate protective clothing, trained personnel, and adequate personnel backup are essential. Cleanup of water-soluble chemicals can be more complicated. Call for experts!

Some materials (i.e., acids, bases) may be carefully neutralized, but most releases (e.g., pesticides, heavy metals, solvents) will require special review. For neutralization, a pilot test of a small (cupful) amount is advisable. Spills at residences can be collected and taken (by the homeowner and depending on quantity of the material) to household hazardous waste collection facilities. In general, the collection/containment of uncontaminated free product allows for recycling and reduced disposal fees.

Abandoned containers, drums, and cylinders containing waste/product will require special attention by Ecology. Drums are not always properly labeled. Stay away and notify the appropriate spill response agency. Some pesticide containers (those labeled "WARNING" and "DANGER"), to be classified as empty, will require triple rinsing and rinsate treatment/collection prior to disposal.

Empty containers should have the labels removed and be marked "MT" (eMpTy).

Note: Safety is always #1! Cleanup personnel must wear appropriate protective clothing, be properly trained (see Washington Department of Labor and Industries' regulations, Chapter 296-62 WAC), follow ICS, and provide traffic/site control as needed.

Please contact Ecology Spill Response Program for assistance about appropriate state laws and regulations, which govern spill response and waste disposal.

Attachments:

- Contractor's Assistance List
- Ecology Regional Map with 24-Hour Phone Contact Numbers and EMD Number

If you want more information or have additional questions on spill preparedness, prevention, and response please visit Department of Ecology – Spill Program's home page at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html>.

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Spill Notification Numbers:

Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) 24-hour toll-free numbers are **(800) 258-5990 and (800) OILS-911**. The EMD must be notified when oil or hazardous substances enter any water of the state (including storm drains and drainage ditches). EMD may be called in lieu of Ecology.

Other notifications may also be required such as the United States Coast Guard, EPA, and local authorities depending upon your area and the type and location of the spilled material.

Ecology Regional Spill Reporting Numbers:

Northwest Regional Office-Bellevue: (425) 649-7000
(Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish & Whatcom counties)
TDD: (425) 649-4259*

Southwest Regional Office-Olympia: (360) 407-6300
(Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston & Wahkiakum counties)
TDD: (360) 407-6306*

Central Regional Office-Yakima: (509) 575-2490
(Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan & Yakima counties)
TDD: (509) 454-7673*

Eastern Regional Office-Spokane: (509) 329-3400
(Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla & Whitman counties)
TDD: (509) 329-3569*

National Response Center: 1-800-428-8802

*Note: TDD numbers answered during office hours only